

BOWEN FARMHOUSE

The Bowen Farmhouse is a large dwelling which was inhabited by the same family from the second half of the 18th century into the second half of the 20th. The evolution of the structure was as continuous and constant as its ownership.

From a structural point of view the building is significant in that in this single structure there is evidence for every type of frame construction running the gamut from heavy post-and-beam to modern balloon framing. In the oldest section, which was probably only a single story building, there is evidence that the frame was exposed on the interior and decorated with beaded paneling. While common in its time this earlier feature has few survivors and this is the only known example in this area.

The house was enlarged at different periods by both frame and stone additions. The Federal period is represented by a two story "hall-and-parlor" addition made of local fieldstone.

The oldest portion of the Bowen Farmhouse dates from a time when the Towson area was scarcely developed. Although it pre-dates the Sheppard-Pratt complex, during the 19th century it was a dependency of that National Register property acting as its farmhouse. In modern times it is surrounded by the evidence of suburban growth including the paved roads, parking lots and buildings of the modern hospital which now owns it.

MEMORANDUM

To: Joe Coale
From: Orlando Ridout V *Orlando*
Date: 8 May 2003
Subject: Bowen House at GBMC

Peter Kurtze and I spent several hours yesterday looking at the Bowen House. We found it to be just as complicated as Rodney had forewarned. We were able to identify at least seven distinct parts to the building, not including three porches. While the primary goal was to determine what might survive from the colonial period, the complexity of the house made it necessary to begin by sorting out the major parts of the building and their order of construction. For the sake of clarity, we then focused primarily on the four sections that make up the main body of the house, setting aside the series of additions that have occurred across the back of the house. I can provide the following comments on each of these, which I have designated with a letter code:

Section A: The 2½ story section that now serves as the central anchor for the house is of stone construction covered at a later date with stucco. A date of 1767 has been inscribed in the upper gable, but we could find no specific architectural evidence that can be dated to the 18th century, and therefore assume that this date was added in the twentieth century, perhaps based on documentary research (and not necessarily intended as the date for this specific section of the house). The side passage plan of this section can be found from the late eighteenth century through the Civil War period, but the architectural trim is typical of the latter part of the Greek Revival period, ca. 1840s – 1850s. Visible framing material was cut with a vertical machine saw, which is typical from the late Colonial period through the 1850s, but the accessible plaster lathing is circular sawn, a technology that generally appears in the late 1840s and becomes standard for lathing by the end of the 1850s. The roof is framed with common rafter pairs that are joined at the ridge with a mitred and nailed joint, a technique that first appears in the late 1850s and is the standard after the Civil War. Taken together, this evidence seems pretty solid for a construction date in the late 1850s. I can offer two qualifiers for that. First, the proportions of the newel post at the foot of the main staircase are rather delicate and would be more typical of the late 1820s or 1830s, in contrast to the bolder and more elaborate newels commonly found by the 1850s. Second, while the interior woodwork is very consistent throughout this section, it could represent a major rebuilding campaign of an earlier stone house. It is

worth noting that the proportions (20'-9" deep by 26'-0" long) and stone construction of this house do not match the house described in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax.

Section B: A 1½ story wing extends from the north gable of Section A. Also of stone construction and covered with stucco, this wing is very similar in materials, construction and woodwork, but the mortar mix (visible from the cellar) is different. This detail, combined with finished exterior joints on the (now covered) north wall of Section A indicate the wing was later, although presumably not by more than a few years.

Section C: A two-story frame section extends to the south of the stuccoed stone house. It measures approximately 20 feet deep and 14 feet long, above a full cellar of stone construction. This section was constructed in more than one period, and appears to include the earliest part of the entire house. In particular, the rear or west wall on the first floor is constructed with heavy timber framing and the corner posts and wall plate are expressed—that is, they protrude into the room rather than being concealed behind the plaster walls. These structural elements are cased with beaded boards, a treatment that is also used for the posts that flank a door in the center of the west wall. This wall treatment is most common in the colonial period, but can be found into the first decades of the nineteenth century. In this case, the only accessible dating evidence is the trim, which includes a wood mantel on the south wall, molded baseboard on all four walls, and remnants of a three-piece chair board on the west wall. All of these trim elements are Federal in style and utilize details typical of the 1790s to about 1815. Beaded weatherboard siding survives behind later wall finishes on the southwest corner of this section of the house, and additional beaded siding can be observed from the attic of the adjoining south section (D). On the basis of what is accessible, this section of the house appears to be either a small domestic structure of perhaps 12 by 14 feet that was incorporated into the later house, or it may be a 14-foot section of a larger, 1½ story frame dwelling such as the 20' by 39' dwelling listed in the 1798 tax list. Further investigation would almost certainly resolve this question, but only with demolition of wall and ceiling materials to gain access to more of the early frame. While elements of the first story can be dated to the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century with relative certainty, the upper part of this section is later, possibly even representing more than one expansion. The second-story trim offers little substantive dating evidence, while a Carpenter Company lock of ca. 1830s on the door to the southwest bed chamber could be recycled from another location. The roof of section C is constructed with mitred common rafter pairs—a close match to the mid-nineteenth century roof of section A.

Section D: The two-story frame portion of the house continues to the south. This section is set flush with the east wall of sections A-C and measures 16'-5" long but is shallower than the adjacent Section C (14'-6" deep versus about 20'-0" for Section C). Here, too, solidly dateable material is scarce, and represents multiple periods. The mantel in the ground floor room is framed with a quirked Grecian ovolo and astragal backband that is typical of the 1820s, while a Carpenter lock on the west door of this room is stamped "WR", indicating it was manufactured ca. 1831-37. The roof of this section is constructed with common rafter pairs assembled with the same late 1850s mitred joint found in the roofs of Sections A and C.

In summary, careful exploratory demolition would be required to make better sense of the complex array of evidence we were able to identify. However, it does appear that we can say that the earliest structure makes up the first story of section C. That structure may predate the 1790s, but in that case only a fragment of the early house survives, as indicated by both the physical evidence and the 1798 tax description. Certain features can be identified from the period 1790s to 1815, including beaded, cased framing, a nice Federal period mantel, baseboard and chair board, as well as wide, beaded weatherboards. A batten door from this same period (or perhaps earlier) also survives, recycled in the nineteenth century to the third floor chamber of Section A. This door has molded battens, a rare detail, and was hung on small H-L hinges, as indicated by paint ghosting. Most important, the door retains an early decorative paint scheme of blue paint with a splatter finish in white.

The early structure was subsequently enlarged by the addition of Section D to the south and the construction of the 2½ story stone house to the north. Further additions were made to the north and across the entire western side of the multi-part house. Architectural details from the later periods include a mantel from the 1820s, two iron rimlocks from the 1830s, and a full array of interior trim from the 1850s. At this point, I do not believe there is an intact structure from earlier than the 1790s, and the most coherent surviving fabric dates to the 1850s. As it seems clear at this point that the house will be dismantled, I am available to conduct further investigations to try to unravel the evidence in Sections C and D. I would also strongly recommend that certain elements be salvaged prior to demolition. I would be happy to discuss options in either regard as needed.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Bowen Farmhouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

6701 N. Charles St.

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

Ninth

COUNTY

Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☒ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Greater Baltimore Medical Center, Inc.

Telephone #: 828-2000

STREET & NUMBER

6701 N. Charles St.

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21204

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Courts Building

Liber #: 4142

Folio #: 443

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>March, 1979</u>

 DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The large dwelling known as the Bowen farmhouse sits atop the high hill Southeast of the intersection of Charles Street and Towsontown Blvd. It is an old and complex structure with a long history since part of the building probably existed in the 18th century.

The north facade of this building is suggestive of the same problems encountered in arriving at a solution for the main facade at George Washington's "Mt. Vernon." In that building the frame of an older and smaller farmhouse served as the core onto which many additions were made. The final attempt at bringing all of these parts together in a unified facade by feigning centralization was only mildly successful. A closer look at Mt. Vernon always reveals an off center central entrance beneath the central pediment, an awkward relationship contrary to the Georgian value of symmetry. From a distance the Bowen farmhouse appears to be an integrated structure and a centrally placed Victorian cross-gable helps. When up close to the north facade, however, one sees that the entrance is not central and two types of clapboards, shingles, and stucco covered stone define various sections that are anything but unified. It is a most interesting study in vernacular architecture.

While no portion of the building jumps out as being of a particular period structural analysis makes it clear that the house evolved in four, if not five, different stages spanning at least three distinctly different stylistic eras. The 2½ story stone portion with "1763" carved into modern stucco on its west end is not the oldest section of the house nor is that portion pre-Revolutionary in date. The oldest section in fact is that frame portion just to the east of the entrance hall to which the stone building was later attached. This frame dwelling was no more than 13½' wide and over a period of time was expanded to the east by two frame additions, had its height raised at least once and was expanded to the east by the stone "side-hall-and-parlor" house. The single story stone wing on the west end of the building was added after the 2½ story block had been built.

Specific dates for these sections have yet to be identified and there are still some unsolved questions but it appears that the following is true:

Section A

This is the oldest portion of the house and frame construction is employed. Although the original height is uncertain this was a free standing frame and clapboard house with an exterior end chimney on the east end. This frame contains hewn log sills which rest on the walls of a stone cellar. That cellar is approximately 7' deep and is a single room 11½' wide and 17' long. The walls are made of coursed flat rock. It is entered by a now enclosed bulk head on the southwest corner. These steps were originally on the outside, however, and they too are stone with the bottom step being a large grey rock embedded into the walls. It is in this room that one can

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

see hewn sills 11" by 6" along the south and west walls. They are mortised and tenoned together and presumably fixed with a trunnel. The other sills have rotted away and have been replaced by piece meal. Only modern joists and flooring could be seen although the south sill contains open mortises that accomodated tenons 2" thick and 6" wide. In places the ends of 3" x 4" studs can be seen. There are two parallel vertical breaks in the stone of the north wall running from the top of the wall down to the dirt floor. They define a centrally located area 4' wide that could have been an earlier entrance. The possibility of an earlier chimney support should not be discounted.

Whether this small frame house was a single, 1½ or two stories in height is as yet undetermined. An obvious protrusion of the first plate on the north facade and a disparity in wall coverings seems to indicate that the present second story is not unified with the first and may be of later vintage. It is very unlikely that this tiny building was the present full two-and-one-half story in its original state and we must conclude that one, if not two, roof raisings have transpired in this section. At any rate there was probably but one room on the first level and it survives with some very interesting early features. Among these are a large mantelpiece of early date, beaded paneling camouflaging an exposed frame, a beaded chair rail embedded in the wall, sash windows with crude glass and in the doorway which seperates A and B a tiny crack barely reveals the ends of clapboard that prove the east wall of this room was once an end wall. (B, however, is believed to be an early addition).

A most unusual and disturbing feature of this room is the zig-zag contour of the east wall. The wall literally juts in and out leaving the fireplace diagonally placed to the room and a curvilinear relationship between the wall and ceiling. Diagonal fireplaces in seperated rooms sharing the same chimney were not uncommon to both the Georgian and Federal periods. (see McPhedris-Warner, Portsmouth, N.H. c. 1718-23, and Huntley, Fairfax Co., VA. c. 1823). Besides the very small rooms that a lateral portion would have yielded the angle of the present fireplace would have had an awkward and impractical relationship to the room.

Later inspection may explain this strange shape but it is certain that the chimney which A and B share is massive. In the attic level a strange shaft of dead space on the south side of the structure shows that as extended to two stories the stone chimney projects out from the building almost 4'. At its base it occupies a space at least 4' x 9'.

The fireplace in A is closed in. The mantle opening, however, is 3' 6" in height and 3' 10" in width. The wooden mantle is a tall and thin form with an architrave moulding decorating a 6" surround and 10½" wide entablature. The shelf is quite thin, almost delicate, and projects from the wall 8". There is a brick hearth supported by a modern frame seen in the cellar.

There is a single centrally placed window in the north wall. It is 6/6 sash and contains several panes of glass that are deemed early by their waviness and large bubbles. There is no visible evidence of windows in either the east or west walls. There is a window and a centrally placed doorway in the south wall. The window has a different frame and moulding than the north window and it is placed in the eastern bay equidistant from the corner and door.

It is this south wall which is most interesting. It exhibits its corner-posts, plate and an exposed door frame. These structural elements are semi-camouflaged by decorative beaded paneling 1" in thickness. The paneling looks like oak. Each post is covered with the paneling separately. The wall area between the posts has a thin layer of plaster with a flush beaded chair-rail. The window incorporates a sill moulding which overlaps the chair-rail as do the framing posts of the door. The area above the door between its top and the ceiling is paneled as well and the two panel boards are fixed in place with dowels. This wall is not plumb and this very noticeable slant to the entire surface can be seen most clearly from the enclosed porch on that side. It is important to notice that the thickness of the exposed studs and plates on the south wall correspond to the plate projection seen on the exterior of the north wall. (See addendum)

Section B

Without implying that they are contemporaries it is interesting to compare the frame portion containing A and B with the 17th century Northeast house plans offered by Hugh Morrison (see Early American Architecture, fig. 12). Suggesting that they might have an evolutionary relationship it is said that the earliest plan was a single room or "hall" with an end chimney. This simple plan was either literally or conceptually added onto by placing another room on the opposite side of the chimney resulting in a "hall and parlor" sharing a central chimney. The location of the massive chimney along the east side would not be typical but by the time B was added to A they constituted a hall and parlor of nearly equal size with back-to-back fireplaces sharing a central massive chimney.

B appears to have been the kitchen during the late Victorian era and modern times. A two story frame and shingle addition with a North-South axis incorporates B into its north half. A window in the south wall of this room, however, shows that it was once the outside wall and not an inner partition.

The most interesting feature of this room is its early mantle which is the same style or period as that in A but the two are not identical. It is again a relatively plain piece with an architrave moulding and plain entablature. This cross panel is locked into the surround with pegs.

The mouldings of this room are very plain. The enclosed string stairs are late Victorian but may replace an earlier stairs. The east window is 6/6 sash and does contain panes of early bubbled glass.

The high ceilings of both sections A and B (8' - 9') suggest that the original height was altered during the Victorian era. These two sections seem to share the same plate along the north wall (see exterior north facade). In between the downstairs ceiling and second level flooring, in what is now a bathroom above B, a thick joist which had been sawn off and spliced to another joist was seen. It had several coats of white wash and fragments of wall paper similar to that seen in places in both A and B which suggests the likelihood that the ceiling of B once consisted of exposed joists and floorboards. The semi-functional state of the joist belies the alteration.

Section C

That A was a free standing frame structure and the absence of a stone wall on the east end of this section are reasons for seeing it as an addition.

The addition was most likely made sometime during the Federal era as the side hall and parlor vertical thrust of the block, and decorative mouldings, etc. speak of that period.

This block is a full $2\frac{1}{2}$ stories in height which most likely had a gable-end roof. The present roof is continuous for both this section and the frame half of the house on the east. It is possible, however, that at one point the house had its $2\frac{1}{2}$ story block with shorter side wings.

There is no basement beneath this section. A limited crawlspace exhibits relatively modern floor joists. The first floor contains an entrance hall on the east side and a parlor on the west. The hall is 7' wide and contains a formal stairs located on the east wall. It is a switch-back stairs partially hung which is continuous to the third level. The landing in between the second and third floors is lighted by a 6/6 sash window that is awkwardly divided by the landing itself. There is a graceful curve at the reversing transition from the first to second level. These are open string stairs with plain step ends. They are paneled with boards up to 18" wide on the first level creating a closet area beneath. Thin rectangular balusters and a dark (walnut) hand rail possess a certain elegance. The closet area reveals that the treaders and risers are nailed together with wire nails.

The main entrance is on the north and is characterized only by its tallness and the four light transom. Like the doors and windows of the adjoining parlor it is trimmed with beaded moulding, and deeply cut bulls-eye corner-blocks. As is typical of so many side hall and central hall plans (particularly on hill top sites) there is another door at the south end of the hall. It is smaller and unlighted and appears somewhat cramped beneath the first landing of the stairs.

The parlor is a spacious room and well lighted with two large windows in the north wall and two more opposite in the south. A large fireplace served by an interior chimney with a 14" projection occupies much of the west wall. The room is nearly square being 17' wide and 17' 4" long.

There is random width flooring with boards up to 6". Each of the windows is a trapezoidal vent in the thick stone walls. The wells are 15" deep. They taper in width from the inside out being 3' 9" to 2' 10" wide and a non-tapered 5' 3" high. Each is trimmed with plain mouldings that have a large $\frac{3}{4}$ bead on the inside edge and there are bulls-eye corner blocks. These do not appear to be the common mass produced Victorian type but are instead smaller with two deeply cut concentric circles that are not altogether regular.

The mantelpiece is rather plain and shows no strong stylistic elements. The shelf projects 6' 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the wall and exists above a plain entablature. Simple raised panels are suggestive of pilasters on the surround. A 1" beaded moulding trims the interior opening which is 4' 3" wide and 3' 5" high.

The second level repeats the plan of the first floor with the typical difference of a small room over the entrance portion of the hall below. The mantle of the second floor bedroom is identical to that below. The mouldings, however, are an unusually thin variety that have a $\frac{3}{4}$ round bead on the inner edge.

The third level is a half story trimmed out with the same mouldings. There is the typical tray ceiling. It contains windowless knee-walls on the sides and is divided into a hall and single room. The hall is lighted by the Victorian cross-gable dormer and the room was originally lighted by small

casement windows on either side of the chimney. It is in this area that one can see continuous uncoursed rubble stone in the west end right up to the ridge but that the east wall is frame.

The roof is a replacement.

Section D

If the roof is original this single story stone wing was added to the west end of the 2½ story block sometime during the second half of the 19th century. It is connected to the larger structure by a doorway located on the south side of the chimney. Its purpose is uncertain, although the presence of a cellar beneath it and evidence of a wood stove suggest that it may have been a kitchen.

In the basement one can see that the foundation stones clearly abut the walls of the main house. One also sees heavy log joists and an unusual 3' stone shelf running along the east wall. The unfinished basement is entered by either a bulkhead on the southwest corner or interior stairs located in the northeast corner. The walls of this room are 5½' high and are made of coursed flatrock.

The upper room is 17' 8" along the west wall and 13' 6" along the south. These two walls contain a centrally placed 6/6 sash window. A mantle smaller but stylistically identical to its counterpart on the opposite wall is located on the east wall. The presence of a continuing baseboard is evidence that it was in its last use a back drop to a wood or coal stove.

A 3' 4" wide board enclosure projecting into the northeast corner of the room 4' 8" contains upstairs, downstairs and pantry space. The attic is unfinished except for a window in the west gable end and a simple rectangular newel post. A roughly laid out area around the stairs is whitewashed but the stone of both the main block and addition are left unpainted.

This wing is extended to the south 8' by a porch enclosed with German siding. It joins an open single story shed roofed porch which is on the south side of the stone 2½ story section. It is bounded on the east end by another enclosed porch attached to the east.

Section E

Section E is the 2 story frame and shingle addition on the east end of the building. Its windows, shingles and deeply corniced gables are late Victorian in character. Functionless windows and beaded clapboard siding in the attic level of B show that this is the latest addition to this house.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES Mid-late 18th century

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bowen Farmhouse is a large dwelling which was inhabited by the same family from the second half of the 18th century into the second half of the 20th. The evolution of the structure was as continuous and constant as its ownership.

From a structural point of view the building is significant in that in this single structure there is evidence for every type of frame construction running the gamut from heavy post-and-beam to modern balloon framing. In the oldest section, which was probably only a single story building, there is evidence that the frame was exposed on the interior and decorated with beaded paneling. While common in its time this earlier feature has few survivors and this is the only known example in this area.

The house was enlarged at different periods by both frame and stone additions. The Federal period is represented by a two story "hall-and-parlor" addition made of local fieldstone.

The oldest portion of the Bowen Farmhouse dates from a time when the Town area was scarcely developed. Although it pre-dates the Sheppard-Pratt complex, during the 19th century it was a dependency of that National Register property acting as its farmhouse. In modern times it is surrounded by the evidence of suburban growth including the paved roads, parking lots and buildings of the modern hospital which now owns it.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baltimore County Land Records
 Baltimore County Will Records

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Attachment

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

ORGANIZATION

WAYNE E. NIELD, II
 HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

ADDENDUM TO "BOWEN FARMHOUSE"

The exposed frame seen on the interior of the south wall of section A is an obvious clue to an early construction date for this portion of the building. On June 29, 1979, with the help of the staff of the Greater Baltimore Medical Center property manager, the unique opportunity was had of opening up the north wall from the exterior to see what information it contained and how, if at all, it compared with its counterpart on the South. In short, it was learned that this portion of the building is post-and-beam, wrought technology was employed, and this wall like the south wall had its frame exposed on the interior and was decorated with identical beaded paneling.

In opening the north wall an approximate 4 by 6 foot area was chosen in the northeast corner of section A where it abuts section B. It was felt that a single opening in this area could reveal the most about how the two sections relate to each other, it might possibly shed light on the problematical chimney, and in exposing the plate log of A tell something of the original height of that section. With regard to this latter question not all of our hopes were realized but the opening at this point did prove fruitful.

It was observed that there are at present two layers of siding and each layer is identical on both A and B. Beneath the outer wooden shingles is a layer of beaded ship-lap weatherboards. These boards were apparently removed from their original position and reattached, butt-joined in order to act as a smooth surface for attaching the shingles. The weatherboards are attached with cut nails and some boards straddle both sections. The size of the boards and the decorative bead suggest that they are early, however, that they are identical on both sections suggests that they may not be the original siding of A.

Having fully opened this part of the oldest part of the farmhouse where posts and plates meet there was dramatic evidence that a lighter framed building (section B) butts up against an earlier post-and-beam structure (section A). The ends of beaded ship-lap siding could be seen that once covered section A's east wall.

The top of an $8\frac{1}{4}$ by $6\frac{1}{2}$ inch corner post could be seen as could a plate measuring 5 inches deep and $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide. Both pieces are hewn, appear to be oak, and are joined via mortise-tenon-and-trunnel (one inch). An angle brace could be seen at the bottom of the frame joining the corner post $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet below the plate and joining the sill approximately 5 feet West of the post. This sill may be a replacement. A non-functional nail with hammered point and wrought head was pulled from the plate; it may have affixed earlier siding.

Mortised into the plate are roughly finished studs that are $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick. They are set flush to the outer edge of the plate. Attached to the inside surface of these thin studs are riven laths. The lath nails are wrought. A $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of brownish plaster containing coarse hair and bits of shell was pressed into the lathing. Three inches further into the wall is another system of studs with laths and plaster, the back of which can be seen in photos "A through F". In photo "F" the earliest wall can be seen on the right side of the newer stud and the newer laths on the left. The "newer" laths, however, are also riven and can be seen as early.

One of the most important finds in this was the presence on the inside of the plate of a piece of beaded paneling like that of the south wall. It is

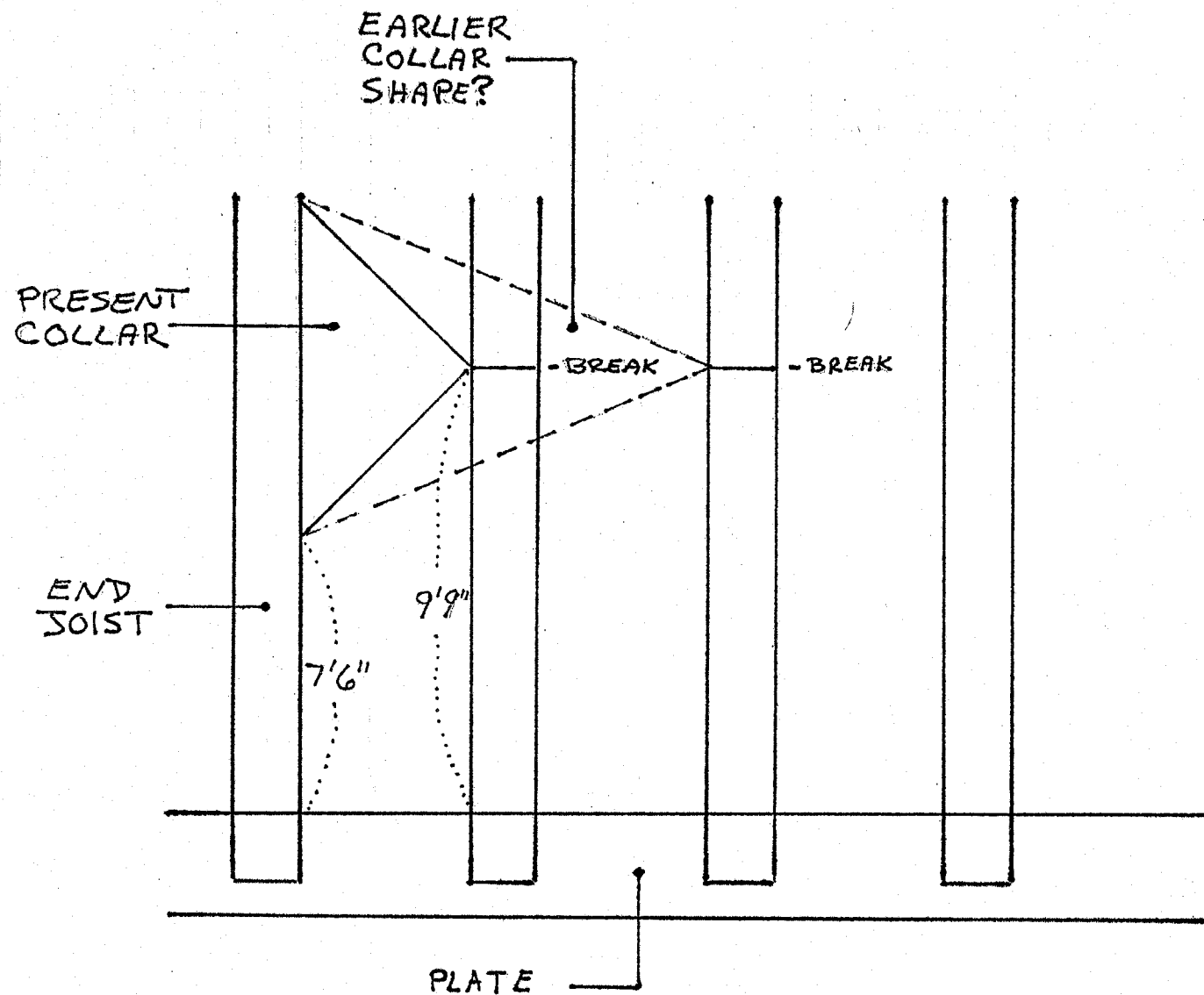
6 3/4 inches wide and 7/8 inches thick and appears to have served the same purpose of decorating an otherwise exposed frame.

Why the frame of the south wall was left exposed and the north later covered up is as yet unanswered. It is also unclear what the original appearance was of the interior east and west walls. It is now certain, however, that both the north and south walls did have decorated exposed frames and it is almost certain that they consist of 18th century materials. Furthermore, it seems likely that all four interior walls were once exposed decorated frames but that fact remains unproven.

In regard to the original height of the building no definite information was gathered. It was observed that there are hewn second story joists which average 4 1/2 inches square. There are shims between the joists and the present relatively modern flooring. The two easternmost joists are not continuous as they are interrupted by the unusual (and problematical) angle of the east chimney. The joists run North to South and have never been decorated or finished in any way (as opposed to exposed joists which are usually at least painted if not beaded, etc.) Since a loft can be finished for habitation the role of these timbers as hidden joists sheds no light on whether section A was originally one, one-and-a-half, or two stories. The dimensions of the single room, however, plus the lack of evidence of second story studs (present posts and studs join the bottom side of the plate and no evidence on the top side of earlier mortise, etc) suggest that the original height was not more than one-and-a-half stories.

The only explanation thus far for the unusual obtuse angle of the east chimney is the possibility of interior kitty-corner fireplaces serving a longitudinally partitioned room. The present angle, however, is not conducive to such an arrangement. It was noticed, however, that there is modern collar bracing in-between the first floor ceiling and second story flooring which reflects the present angle of the chimney. The joists are laid with 22 inch centers and because of their thickness there is 17 inches between each joist. The current chimney collar runs an angle which begins (measuring from the north plate) 7 feet 6 inches on the east joist or plate to a depth of 9 feet 9 inches on the next inner joist. The modern collar does not reach the next joist and that joist, unlike the others, is not continuous. Its break is at the same point of its neighbors. If the reason for this break is that it was once interrupted by the chimney then it may be seen as evidence that the chimney once had a more acute angle (see drawing).

BA-1723



BA # 1723

D.O.S.

BA-1723

CHAIN OF TITLE FOR BOWEN FARMHOUSE
Parcel 752, Map 69

<u>Liber</u>	<u>Folio</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Grantee</u>
4142	443	May 10, 1963	The Trustees of the Sheppard & Enoch Pratt Hospital	Greater Baltimore Medical Center, Inc.

Beginning...the third line of parcel of deed dated March 4, 1918
Land Record WPC 493/473 conveyed by the Title Guarantee & Trust Co.
to the Trustees of the Sheppard & Enoch Pratt Hospital...being
distant South 26° 23' West 101.36' ...containing 57.933 acres.

493	467	February 28, 1918	Rebecca J. Bowen et al	Title Guarantee & Trust Co.
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Beginning...centre of Charles St. Ave. where it is intersected by a
tract of land by deed dated July 10, 1858 Land Record 22/274
conveyed by Rebecca P. Brown to the Trustees of the Sheppard & Enoch
Pratt Hospital...South 7° 4 min. East 1,255' ...containing 57.15 acres.

Being a part of the property devised by Solomon Bowen to his son
Benjamin Bowen under his Last Will & Testament dated June 3, 1804
Will Book WB 7/293

Benjamin Bowen died intestate about November 17, 1819. The title
was vested to his five children:

Benjamin Bowen
Ann Bowen (married Samuel Buckman)
Eleanor Bowen
William Bowen
Rebecca Bowen

Ann and Benjamin vested their 2/5 share to Eleanor Bowen by deed June 1, 1871
Land Record 70/575. She then reconveyed 1/5 back to Benjamin Land Record 92/238

Benjamin Bowen's will 5/240 dated June 5, 1877 devised his share to Ellen(Eleanor?)
to be divided between William, herself, and Rebecca.

See Rebecca Bowen's Will 5/313 December 12, 1877

LAST WILL & TESTAMENT OF SOLOMON BOWEN, 1804

Solomon Bowen

Last Will & Testament: Will Book WB 7 folio 293
June 3, 1804

Wife: Temperence Bowen

Children: Solomon
Benjamin
Josias
William
Nathan
Elijah
Elizabeth
Ruth
Temperence

To son Solomon - "...tract of land called Samuel's Hope (where on he now resides) which was bought of Thomas Carr..."

To son Benjamin - "...the place whereon I now live...Beginning...fourth boundary of a tract of land called Samuel's Hope...running ...to the fourth line of the great run...down to the north fork...up the north fork about 10 perches to a... Poplar tree standing on the west side of the said Fork ...to a stone marked IB...at the northeast corner of lot.. devised to Josias Bowen...to the northeast corner...to the northwest corner...south to the great run until it intersects the land bought by Thomas Carr...North to the third line of Samuel's Hope...East to the fourth boundary of Samuel's Hope."

To son Josias - "Beginning...stone...marked IB...to the northeast corner... to road...to beginning."

To sons William, Josias & Elijah - "Beginning...end of third line...that part...of Samuel's Hope bought by Benjamin Bowen of Samuel Hooker... North to a rock stone marked 1786 standing on the south side of the great run...North 54° East 29 perches untill it intersects the given line of the land sold by Hooker...to the great run...to the fork...up the north fork...to...Poplar tree to stone...IB...standing at the northeast corner of lot of land...given to Josias Bowen...thence with the road...bounding..

Jossais Bowen's lot to the southwest corner thereof...intersects Carrs' land ...South to Negro's Spring Branch...to beginning"

To son Nathan - "Beginning...second boundary of Samuel's Hope...North until it intersects the land I bought of Thomas Carr thence East with the line of Carrs land to the mouth of the Negro's Spring Branch thence with the lines of Nathan Bowen son of Nathan's land and binding thereon to the first line of Samuel's Hope...to Beginning."

LAST WILL & TESTAMENT - REBECCA BOWEN

Rebecca Bowen

Will Book 5 folio 313 December 12, 1877

To brothers Benjamin and William and sister Ellen or survivors of them:

"...as long as they may desire to live upon or occupy...the...
farm inherited from our father and where we have resided all
our lives...they shall not be disturbed in their old house..."

9th District

BA-1723

BOWEN FARMHOUSE

On Greater Baltimore Medical Center property, formerly Sheppard Pratt Hospital property.

House was built about 1739 by Solomon Bowen. He probably built it himself as he was a stonemason as well as a farmer. It is built of fieldstone. There have been additions.

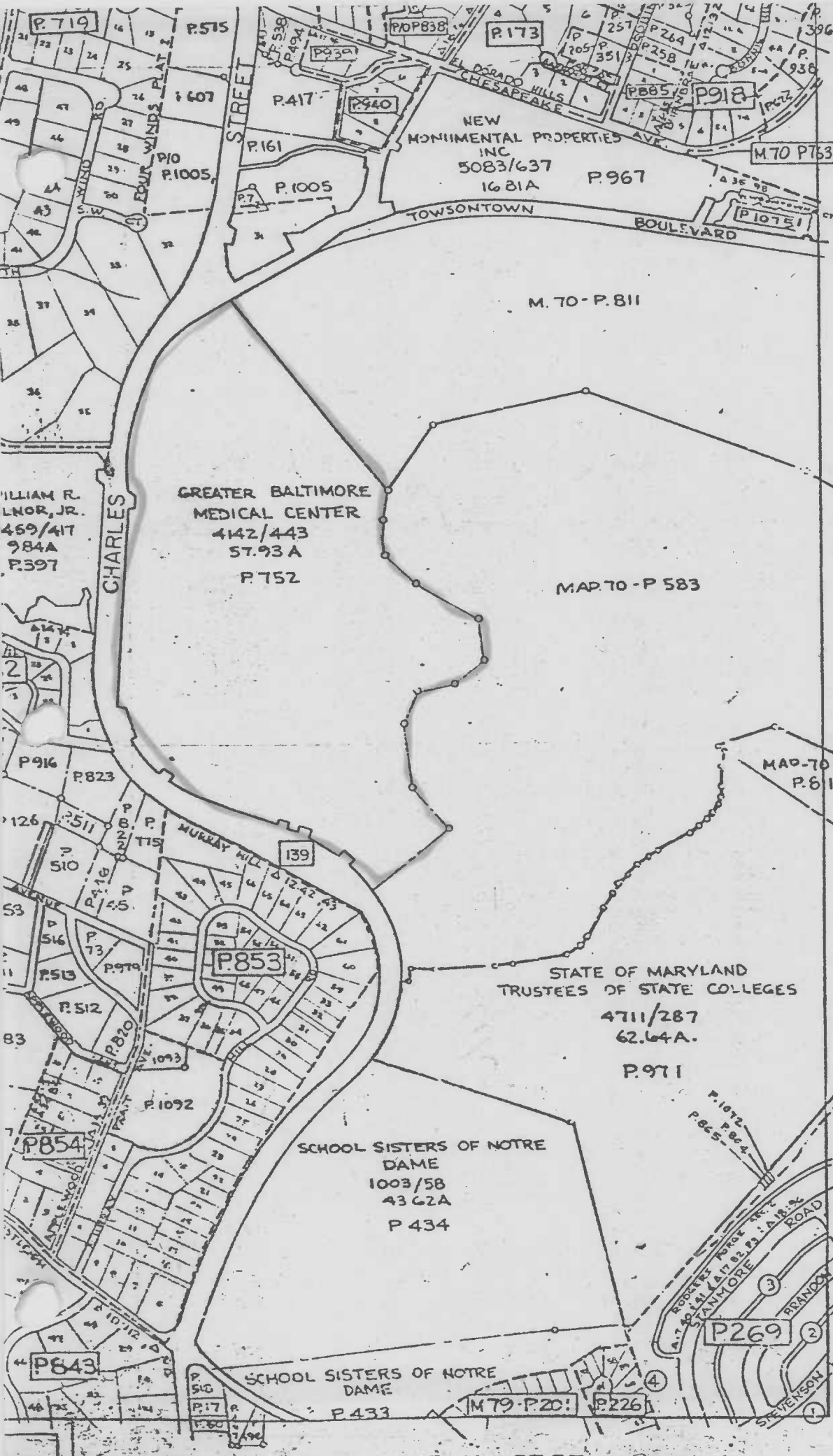
The house was built on land purchased in 1720 from Samuel Hooker, by an ancestor, Benjamin Bowen, Sr. In 1858, part of the land was sold by Solomon Bowen's daughter, Rebecca, to Moses Sheppard for his new hospital.

On the Ninth District Map in the G. M. Hopkins Atlas of Baltimore County, 1877, there was property still owned by the estate of Benjamin Bowen, Jr., the father of Rebecca Bowen.

570

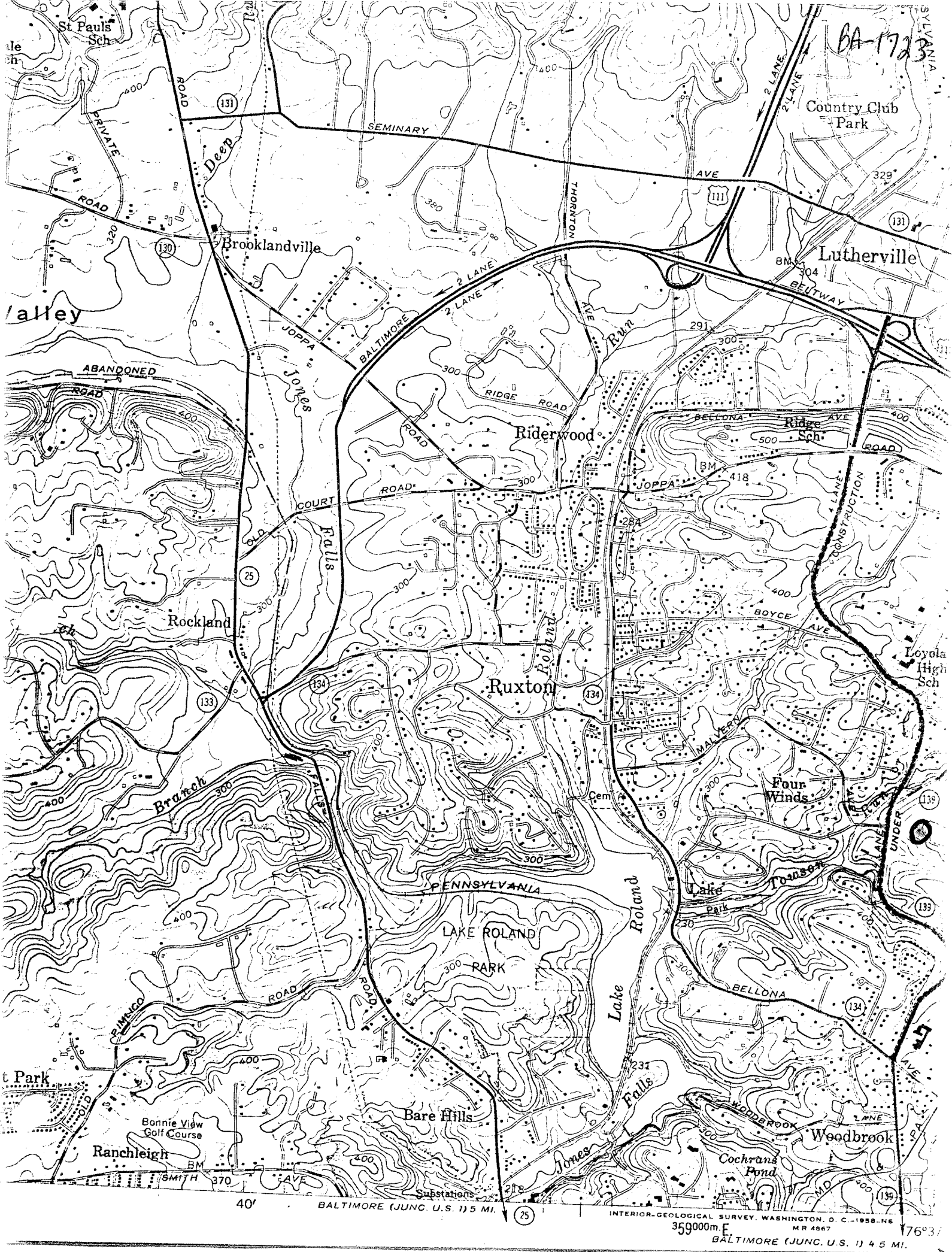
70

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567

564



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Country Club Park

Lutherville

Riderwood

Ruxton

LAKE ROLAND

Bare Hills

Woodbrook

Bonnie View Golf Course

Ranchleigh

INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. - 1958-N6
359000m E

BALTIMORE (JUNC. U.S. 1) 4.5 MI.

BALTIMORE (JUNC. U.S. 1) 5 MI.

76°37'



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BOWEN FARMHOUSE
N.E CORNER

W. NIELD
7/79



BA- 1723

BOWEN FARMHOUSE

S.E. CORNER

W. NIELD

7/79



BA-1723

BOWEN FARMHOUSE
N. FACADE

W. NIED
7/79



BA-1723

BOWEN FARMHOUSE
S. FACADE

W. NIELD
7/79



BA-1723

BOWEN FARMHOUSE.
S.W. CORNER

W. NIELD
7/79



BA- 1723

BOWEN FARMHOUSE
N. FACADE
DETAIL

J. CORCORAN
7/79



BA. 1723

BOWEN FARMHOUSE

N. FACADE
DETAIL

W. NIELD
7/79



BA- 1723

BOWEN FARMHOUSE
N. FACADE
DETAIL

J. CORCORAN
7/79